



yellow footprints

# The Road to Improvement



## yellow footprints

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Throughout this edition of Yellow Footprints you'll see a common theme: *know yourself and seek improvement*.

We took a look at the magazine and saw areas where we could improve. In these pages you'll see not only a new look, but more information than before. We've expanded the number of stories without sacrificing content quality.

Improving how we live and work is a never-ending ordeal. The result is a guaranteed benefit. The degree of benefit is up to you.

Walter Anderson grew up in a tenement just outside the Bronx. Almost daily he suffered some form of abuse from his father. He found his escape through the Marines. Since then, he's gone on to head America's most read magazine. You can read his story on page 8.

Susan Moyer lived in central New York state when she graduated from high school and joined the Marines. Her determination to excel and constantly improve helped her earn Company Honor Graduate when she completed recruit training. Her story is on page 18.

The contact team spends most of their time on the road, visiting Marines throughout the District. To help guide professional improvement at the RSS-level, we asked them what they saw this past year and to lend some advice. Find out what they said on page 10.

Not every improvement has to come from the self. Sometimes it comes from other places with the intent to benefit one's life. At RSS State College, Elizabeth Ankney is using her Marine Corps experience to help her husband, Staff Sgt. Shane Ankney, with his mission. And on page 16, read about an experiment that took place in RS Buffalo that will hopefully become a reality for every recruiter in the northeast.

Enjoy your magazine.

Sgt. Neal  
Editor



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## Mission Not Impossible: Self Improvement

by Lt. Col. Scott Aiken

“Know yourself and seek improvement.” This Marine Corps leadership principle is as applicable on recruiting duty as in the operating forces. As leaders of Marines, self-improvement is a continuous process, regardless of duty assignment. While serving on recruiting duty, we must each make self-improvement a priority, with the goal of being a better Marine upon the completion of this tour -- the Marines we lead in the future demand nothing less!

The Marine Corps Training and Education Command offers the following ways to achieve self-improvement:

- Make an honest evaluation of yourself to determine your strong and weak qualities.
- Strive to overcome the weak qualities and further strengthen those in which you are strong.
- Seek the honest opinions of your friends or seniors to show you how to improve your leadership ability.
- Learn by studying the causes for the success or the failure of other leaders.
- Develop a genuine interest in people; acquire the human touch.
- Master the art of effective writing and speech.
- Have a definite goal and a definite plan to attain it.

As such, I'd like to offer three additional ways that each of you can seek self-improvement while serving with the 1st Marine Corps District:

1. Study your doctrine. The *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military Terms* defines doctrine as “*fundamental principles by which military forces guide their actions in support of national objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgment in application.*” The knowledge and use of doctrine serves as a common link between military professionals. For the recruiting force, this means that we should read, and then continually review, the relevant recruiting manuals. Each of us on recruiting duty has our own applicable volume of doctrine, from *Guidebook for Recruiters, Volume I* for recruiters through *Guidebook for District Operations, Volume V* for District personnel, while the *Military Personnel Procurement Manual* (MPPM) applies throughout. Only with a thorough knowledge of this doctrine will you truly be able to meet the demands of recruiting with an adequate base of knowledge in Systematic Recruiting.

2. Improve “the system.” Each of us should consider ourselves stewards of Systematic Recruiting. Our goal should be to ensure that Marine recruiting in our

area of responsibility is more fundamentally sound after we leave than before we arrived. I can say that Systematic Recruiting is more advanced and effective now than when I was on recruiting duty 12 years ago as a recruiting station operations

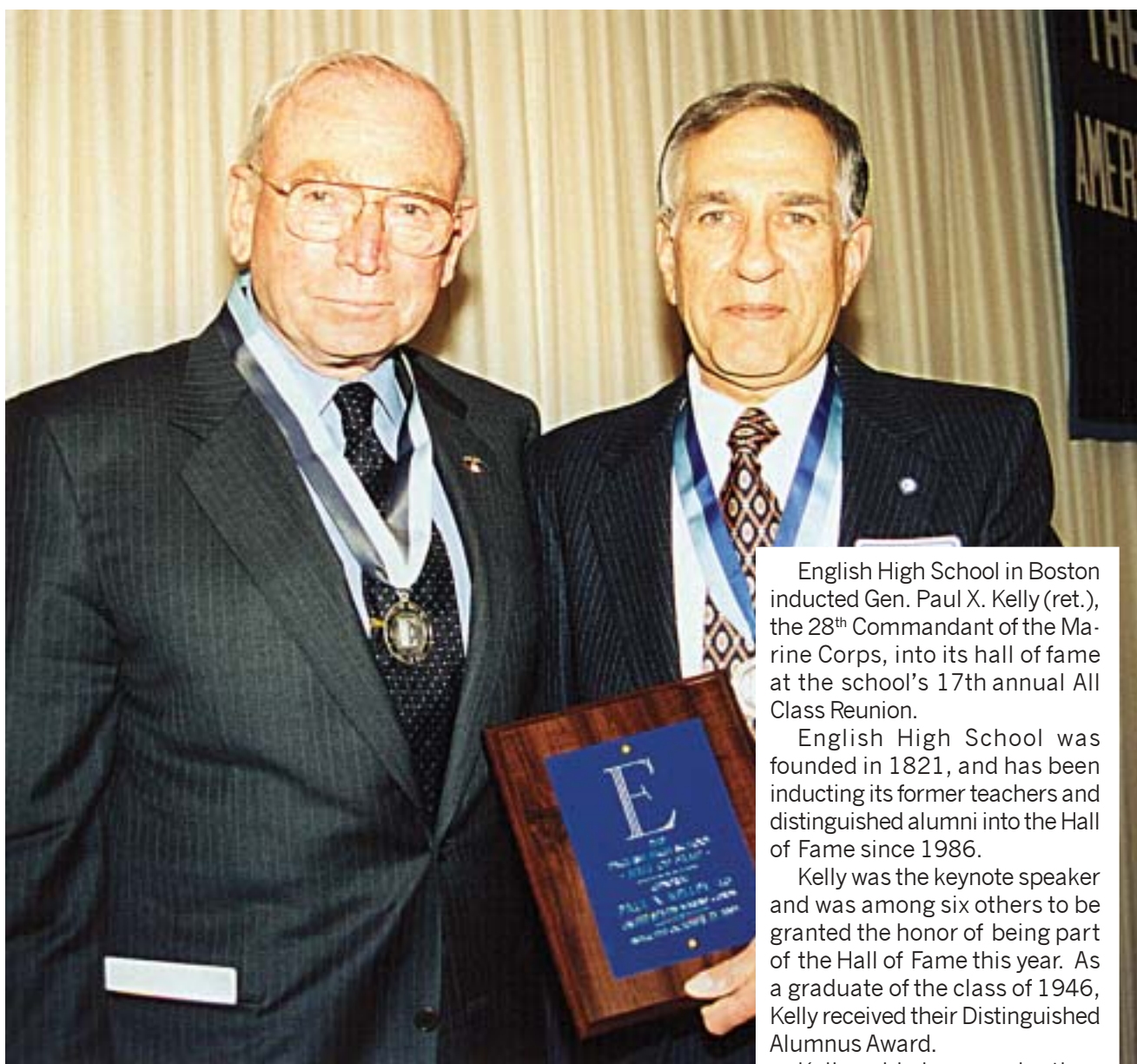
officer. This increased effectiveness is due in large part to the efforts of generations of recruiters, each finding ways to improve “the system.” Such past improvement efforts that I can readily identify include more competent musicians being obtained for the Musician Enlistment Option Program (MEOP), the implementation of the Marine Corps Recruiting Information Support System (MCRISS) over the Automated Recruit Management System (ARMS), and the streamlined process of waivers, particularly applicant medical waivers through the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine (BUMED). Future efforts may include a paperless Priority Prospect Card (PPC) Program, better ways to conduct the Media Program at the recruiting substation level, and the development of improved prospecting techniques for Marine Aviation Officer Candidates. Again, we owe the Marine recruiters of the future nothing less - our Corps depends upon it.

3. Improve our applicants. As members of the recruiting force, we should be focused on a single end result – the maximum number of quality recruits and officer candidates that successfully complete entry-level training or are reenlisted into the Active or Reserve component. By appropriately preparing applicants in the areas of physical fitness and military knowledge, we can give them the best possible chance to meet the rigors of entry-level training and service in the operating forces. Supervision and mentorship to these applicants as they arrange their personal affairs will allow them to fully focus on their new careers as Marines. It should be your goal that every applicant that you send to entry-level training or reenlist into the Active or Reserve component carries your personal “stamp of approval.”

In conclusion, the opportunities to seek self-improvement on recruiting duty are only limited by your imagination. I charge each of you to focus on this important leadership principle. 🦶🦶







Staff Sgt. Chris Hale

Gen. Paul Kelly (left) and Hall of Famer Peter Powilatis.

# Gen. Paul X. Kelly (ret.)

## English H.S. Hall of Famer

by Staff Sgt. Chris Hale

English High School in Boston inducted Gen. Paul X. Kelly (ret.), the 28<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, into its hall of fame at the school's 17th annual All Class Reunion.

English High School was founded in 1821, and has been inducting its former teachers and distinguished alumni into the Hall of Fame since 1986.

Kelly was the keynote speaker and was among six others to be granted the honor of being part of the Hall of Fame this year. As a graduate of the class of 1946, Kelly received their Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Kelly said since graduating, "the lessons and values I learned there have continued to stay with me."

After graduation, Kelly enlisted in the Marine Corps. After receiving a full scholarship to college, though, his recruiter threw out his enlistment package and encouraged him to look into becoming a Marine officer.

The ceremony coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; during which time Kelly was Commandant. 🙏



courtesy of Shane Ankney

*Staff Sgt. Shane Ankney with his wife, Elizabeth.*

The rigors and stresses of recruiting can take its toll on the toughest Marines. If one person can ease the pressure, it's a supportive spouse.

Elizabeth Ankney, wife of Staff Sgt. Shane Ankney, has been doing more than standing beside her husband; she's been in the fight right along with him. From acting as the mentor for the female poolees of RSS State College to distributing literature at Penn State Dubois Campus, this former Marine sergeant has made it her mission to support her husband.

"As a former Marine, I understand the duties and responsibilities of my husband, and I want to support him," Elizabeth said.

"She definitely understands the demands of the Marine Corps, especially recruiting duty," Shane said. "She's very patient with me and the long hours. She makes sure the little time we do spend together is valuable."

"Mrs. Ankney brings to the table what the Corps has done for her both as a Marine and now as a civilian," said Sgt. Maj. Scott Carter, RS Pittsburgh's sergeant major.

The support helped her husband become one of Pittsburgh's top recruiters. In 22 months, Ankney has written 72 contracts, averaging more than three each month. Her support has been a tremendous boost to Shane's success, according to Carter.

"She makes this job so much easier by a long shot," Shane said. "She gives me an advantage over other recruiters."

Elizabeth often assists with female applicant interviews and provides valuable insight into the world of a female Marine.

"He keeps a separate book full of my Marine Corps pictures and memorabilia in his office for female prospects to look at," said Elizabeth. "I'm a resource that's always there for him, because I know as a female Marine, there are things I know and can explain that he can't."

"She is a role model, mentor and friend to both [Staff Sgt. Ankney's] poolees and RSS State College's poolees," Carter added. "She's a tremendous asset to the recruiting station."

Elizabeth balances recruiting duties with college and raising their three children. Though difficult at times, she says it's a very rewarding experience.

"When I left the Marine Corps in 1997, I did so to raise our children. And now if I can't be a Marine, I want to help [Shane] be a better Marine," she explained. "It's a way for me to stay Marine." 🦶🦶

## Making Recruiting Duty A Family Affair

by Sgt. Michael Wiener

**ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia** Rochester, N.H., native LCpl. Christopher Croteau (right), rifleman, Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, and LCpl. Randall H. Perry, rifleman, Company A, of Ashland, Maine, have fun with infants at the Lotus Children Centre in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



Cpl. Michael D. Darbouze

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** Posing with the Gladiator tactical unmanned ground vehicle, LCpl. Jeff D. Garber, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and native of Philadelphia, demonstrates the scale of the vehicle and game-control characteristics of the operating controller. The Gladiator can be armed with a variety of infantry and nonlethal weapons and can be used in combat or riot control situations without putting Marines in harm's way.



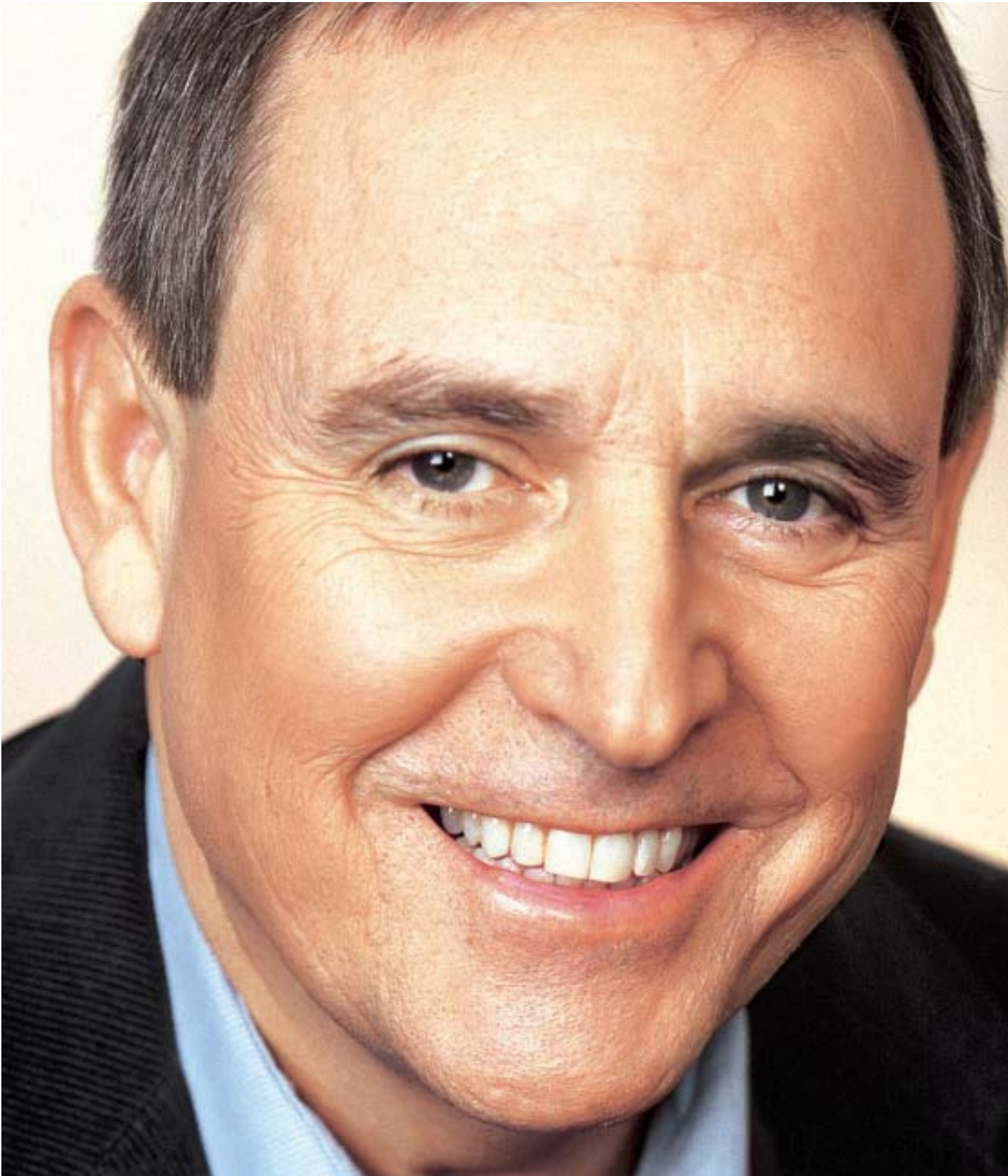
Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes

**KABUL, Afghanistan** LCpl. Kenneth A. Harrington Jr., machine gunner, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Branford, Conn., native fires a .50 caliber machine gun outside the city of Kabul during recent weapons training.



Cpl. Nicholas Tremblay





Courtesy of Walter Anderson



# Walter Anderson

## CEO, Parade Publishing

by Sgt. John Neal

Long before he became the head of America's most read magazine, Walter Anderson was a Marine sergeant in Vietnam.

Anderson grew up in a tenement on the south side of Mount Vernon, N.Y., a suburb of The Bronx. His father was a violent alcoholic who routinely beat Walter, the youngest of three children, often just for reading books. The books gave Anderson a temporary escape from the violence and poverty of home.

Urged on by his mother and with the help of his best friend's mother, Anderson attended private school but never felt like he fit in. For high school, he returned to public school but only on occasion. He regularly cut classes during the day and worked in the afternoons to make money. At the age of 16, Anderson dropped out of high school and joined the Marines.

After boot camp and infantry school, Anderson went to Camp Lejeune, N.C. It was there he realized he wasn't going to stay in the Marines forever and needed to do something to improve himself. With help from his first sergeant, Anderson earned his GED and got a spot at the electronics school.

Again, Anderson felt out of place. All the students at the school were bona fide high school graduates and some had college experience. Yet Anderson worked hard and graduated seventh out of a class of 24. He also received a promotion to lance corporal, thanks to the support of the school's staff. It was a moment, he says, he is most proud of.

"It was the first time anyone said to me, 'we believe in you.'"

Anderson shipped to Vietnam in early-1965 and spent most his time in East Da Nang. In October, the Viet Cong coordinated the first major attack on the Marines at Da Nang.

He returned to the United States in December of that year a battle-hardened veteran. A few months later he attended his father's funeral. It was after the funeral he learned from his mother the man he had known was not his father. It was a secret she had kept and she asked him to keep it, too, for as long as his brother and sister were alive. Anderson kept his word.

He got out of the Marine Corps and went to Westchester Community College and Mercy College. He went on to write for various newspapers, the Associated Press and, at age 35, was named editor of Parade Magazine. He worked at Parade for 20 years when he was named the chief executive officer of Parade, which is read by 37 million Americans every Sunday. He has also written five books. His most recent, "Meant to Be" details his life's story and reveals the secret he and his mother kept for so long.

Anderson has never forgotten where he came from, and what he learned while in the Marines.

"I learned to have confidence in others and myself. I learned to do the right thing and do things for others. I learned to live for something larger than myself."

The Marine Corps took a kid from a tough neighborhood and turned him into a man. He still feels the fraternal bonds.

"I grew up in the Marine Corps. I never left the Marine Corps." 🦶🦶

A dark, overcast landscape with a power line tower in the distance. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, and a faint rainbow is visible on the left side. The ground is dark and appears to be a mix of dirt and sparse vegetation. A power line tower stands prominently in the middle ground, with its lines stretching across the horizon. The overall mood is somber and desolate.

# POINT OF CON

The 1st District's Contact Team  
probably spends 99% of their time on  
the road visiting recruiting stations.  
Here's what they're seeing.

by Sgt. John Neal



# CONTACT

Know yourself and seek improvement. It's one of the principles of leadership, and probably the most often quoted one when standing in front of a board. It's not because it's the easiest one to remember (though I'm certain that's one factor) but it's also one Marines strive to achieve every day.

So with the purpose of improvement in mind, I asked the District's contact team what were some things they consistently found recruiters and NCOICs not doing during their inspections throughout the northeast. It was a question Gunnery Sgt. Robert Wargo and Master Sgt. Raynard Gagnon were quick to answer.





What Marines **are not** doing:

**The leaky pool.** Recruiters are making weekly pool contact. They call their poolees and ask: “how’s school,” “been in trouble lately,” “are you coming to the pool meeting,” and “do you have any referrals?” That’s good. But it ends there. Pool contacts are not always quality contacts. The contact should be personalized. Get nosy. Ask “how’s mom” if she’s not been feeling well lately, “how’s the new girlfriend,” “how’s the new job,” ... The pool contact card should have personalized circumstances noted on it that could become concerns later and that should be checked on with every contact. Why? Needs change. Needs that change can create concerns later on that can ultimately alter the decision to ship to recruit training. On average, personal needs and human conditions transform every 90 days. If needs change in direct relation to the future likelihood of that poolee shipping to MCRD, the recruiter and the NCOIC have to satisfy those needs.

The NCOIC and the recruiter need to work the pool contact card in accordance with *Volume I*. The card is action-dated for a reason, and it should be included in the NCOIC’s in-out file. The reason it’s called a tracking card is because it’s tracking personal circumstances on a weekly basis. Often offices lump pool contacts into one day of the week. It seems convenient, but it’s diminishing the effect of the tool. Instead of a tracking process, the contact card becomes an administrative burden. Additionally, lumping contacts into one day takes the individuality out of the poolee contact. Questions become formatted and will often fail to recognize and discover the changing needs of the person.

**Faulty prospecting.** NCOICs aren’t maximizing their prospecting efforts on a daily basis through recruiter-NCOIC in-briefs and S-and-R reviews. NCOICs need to get involved with the prospecting side of the chain to ensure their recruiters’ prospect lists are used efficiently. Recruiters will often start with a good



plan for the month-in-sight that supports the mission letter, but they're not sticking to it. Instead, they are making haphazard changes to the plan that, in effect, hinder the mission. NCOICs can maximize the prospecting efforts and enforce time management by holding morning in-briefs, S-and-R reviews, and constant involvement with recruiters throughout the day. In-briefs and follow-ups don't just serve to pass word. They also set guidelines for recruiters. Recruiters should leave the office for prospecting with a specific goal of how many new referrals they should make before heading back.

So now we know where improvement is needed. But where are Marines excelling on a consistent basis? This was a tough question to answer, and not because the number of things going well is small. To the contrary, Marines – with the exception of the above examples – are doing everything else right.

What Marines **are** doing:

**'I cannot tell a lie.'** Recruiters are telling the truth to applicants about the possibility of going to Iraq and other dangerous places. They are upfront in telling prospects the mission of the Marine Corps instead of selling benefits and programs. They don't hide the fact people join the Marines to become Marines.

**Blood, Sweat, and Tenacity.** Marines are also making mission and shipping. In fact, the First Team consistently leads the Eastern Recruiting Region in this.

Marines who have been in the 1st District for some time say there is one thing that sets the First Team apart: Marines in the northeast fight hardest when their back's against the wall and the month is at an end. According to Top Gagnon, the 1st District has always fought to the last hour for every contact, contract and shipper despite sub-zero temperatures. 🦶🦶



Cpl. Ethan Rocke

**E**ugene Lee of Liverpool, N.Y., has been a member of the Marine Corps community for well over three quarters of a century.

"I always thought the Marines were wonderful. From a kid up, I wanted to be a Marine," Lee declared boldly. "I joined the Marines when I was 18-years-old and maybe three weeks or so." At that time having a high school diploma or an equivalent degree was not an enlistment requirement of the Marine Corps. Lee had neither.

Lee learned to be a Marine at the Philadelphia Navy Yard just before being shipped to France.

"We stayed in New York Harbor for, I don't know, two or three days, I guess. Then we started to cross. It was 13 days getting over there on account of the submarines. We were the first convoy over."

On the first day of the Battle of Belleau Wood, the 51st Company, 5th Marine Regiment dug in along a defensive line just north of the village of Lucy-le-Bocage.

"We got up there and they split us out into formation. They had the first wave go so far. They kept on firing in the woods there. The next wave would come and jump over them and they'd go so far, and would fire till they got in the edge of the woods." Lee explained that the wave would advance in a leapfrog manner. He was in the third wave. It took four waves across the field to make it to the wood line.

Lee wasn't sure how many Marines made it to the wood line with him.

"When we got fighting in the woods there, we were mixed up," Lee said. The fear that comes from the fog of war could still be heard in his voice.

"After we got settled there I helped carry some of the fellas back so far," he said.

The Battle of Belleau Wood raged from June 1 to 26, 1918. There were 9,777 U.S. casualties, of which 1,811 were fatal. Lee received the Silver Star for his actions at Belleau Wood.

After the war, Lee came home with a composite regiment and paraded in England, Philadelphia and New York.

Lee then returned to Syracuse and worked at the Syracuse Lighting Company. His wife of 63 years has gone on ahead of him. They never had any children. His only surviving relative is a niece who resides in Ohio.

Lee moved out of his home in March, and into the retirement ward of an up-state New York hospital. An honorary high school diploma from Liverpool High School hangs on Lee's wall.

Eighty-six years after earning the title, Lee still takes great pride in being a Marine. "I'll always be proud of being a Marine. Always."



**Eugene Lee**

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Moor



**A**t 105-years-old, Joseph DiPofi is one of the oldest living United States Marines.

DiPofi served honorably from 1922-1925.

At the age of 15, DiPofi, the second of seven children and oldest son of Mary-Joseph and Felix DiPofi, immigrated from his birthplace of El Chicano, Italy to the United States in 1913.

After going through Ellis Island, he spent his first nine years drifting around with his “pisans” (friends), riding on boxcars, taking up lodging at boarding houses and finding employment washing dishes, doing construction at Penn State College, and working as a prison water boy at the Pennsylvania State Penitentiary.

With a third grade education from the old country, DiPofi enlisted in the Marine Corps on Nov. 10, 1922. “I was young. I wanted to see the world.

I wanted to be somebody. I wanted to serve my country,” he proudly declared with a thick Italian accent.

DiPofi attended recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., where he became a rifle expert. According to DiPofi, his expert status earned him an extra \$5 a month in addition to his \$28 monthly pay.

After earning the title Marine, he was shipped to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where he was assigned to the contingent of Marines protecting U.S. agricultural assets. The overall Marine occupation of Haiti lasted from 1915-1934.

When the 29th President of the United States of America Warren G. Harding died in 1923, DiPofi participated in the memorial parade held in Haiti.

Some of the other memorable events DiPofi still talks about from his days in Haiti were his bout with malaria and the time he met General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Over the years DiPofi has shared his Marine Corps story with his sons Phil, 76, and John, 69.

According to John, DiPofi also spent time aboard a Navy ship in the South Pacific at some point during his enlistment before being stationed at Portsmouth, N.H.

On Nov. 9, 1925, DiPofi left active service. He moved to Niagara Falls where he worked for Carborundum until he retired at age 65.

For the past 11 years DiPofi has resided at a nursing home in Niagara Falls.

“I’ve had a good life. We came over here for a better life. We did this. We made a better life. This is America. We made this country,” he said with rising enthusiasm.

“I served my country with honor,” DiPofi proudly stated.

“Semper Fidelis!” 🇺🇸



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Moor

# And You Thought You Were OLD CORPS

by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Moor

# Winter Wear

by Sgt. John Neal



**The Blue Overcoat**

As temperatures in the northern parts of the country hover around single digits and blasts of wind plunge them well below zero, Marine recruiters patrol the streets prospecting for our Corps' future in blue sweaters and thin tanker jackets.

It's been five years in the making, but a warmer option for Marines on recruiting duty could be coming down the pike. Marines at Recruiting Stations Buffalo, N.Y., and Fargo, N.D., are testing three new coats and jackets for possible wear in the future.

Two items are already familiar to Marines – the tanker jacket and the all-weather coat – but with some upgrades to make them more durable in the cold. The tanker jacket and the all-weather coat undergoing testing by recruiters feature quilted

liners that add more warmth than the current models being used. The item that is turning heads and winning the favor of Marine recruiters, though, is the blue overcoat, also known as the horseblanket.

RS Buffalo received 12 sets of the three coats for testing in November. The coats were distributed to the sergeant major, recruiter instructor, and 10 Marines at RSS Tonawanda and RSS West Seneca. In an area that averages 80 inches of snowfall annually and where temperatures fall to 25 degrees below zero, the blue overcoats have been a welcome change to current uniform options.

"Up until late December, the tanker jackets were getting the most wear, but with the frigid weather that has hit us over the past five weeks,

the horseblankets have been a god-send for the 12 recruiters that are trying them out," said Capt. Daniel Colvin, RS Buffalo's executive officer.

"I think they're awesome," said Staff Sgt. William Buckwalter, a recruiter at RSS West Seneca who is participating in the test. "They are the best things ever done for us out here."

The navy blue coats are made of 100 percent wool, have a permanent inner liner, and wear like the all-weather coat. Gold buttons with the Marine emblem like those on the Blue Dress jacket decorate the double-breasted coat. The material and the weight of the coat keeps Marines warm by stopping the wind from cutting through, and the length keeps their legs warm. The coat also compliments the Blue Dress uni-



**The Reinforced Tanker Jacket**

forms and Marines like the professional look.

Buckwalter says civilians often approach him on the street to compliment him about the blue overcoat.

"It's a kind of conversation starter," he said. "People come up to tell me it's a nice coat, then I'll ask what have they got going on. So it's helped me in that aspect."

While the majority of Marines going through the testing favor the overcoat, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rodgers, SNCOIC of RSS Tonawanda, says he's more partial to the reinforced tanker jacket because the overcoat is cumbersome getting in and out of vehicles. Rodgers finds the tanker jacket with the quilted liner provides sufficient warmth when outside and, yet, is still comfortable when worn indoors.

"It's not so big and bulky so when you go to someone's house you don't have to take it off and look for some place to lay it down."

Though the overcoat is "very warm," Rodgers says the wool material is also a magnet for lint and hair.

"If you go into somebody's house and they have a pet, God help you."

Sgt. Maj. Craig Brown, sergeant major of the 1st Marine Corps District, has been lobbying for new coats for recruiters in the northeast since 1999.

"It's the right thing to do," said Brown. "You wouldn't send a Marine into combat without proper equipment. Some recruiters are working in extreme weather conditions. It's not uncommon to see recruiters in frigid temperatures wear-

ing only a tanker jacket and sweater."

Tests will last for three months with surveys issued at 20-, 60- and 90-day marks. During the testing period, Marines will evaluate the new coats on a variety of factors including protection against the cold, durability, fit, appearance and overall performance. After testing is complete, the data will be sent to Marine Corps Recruiting Command for selection and approval.

Brown says he would like to see the new coats made available either as geographic-designated issue or optional purchase in the future.

"We need to push out the type of gear Marines need to do their mission in adverse weather conditions." 🦶🦶



An Oneida High School alumnus graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Training with top honors; the first female to do so from that area in more than a year.

LCpl. Susan E. Moyer, 18, of Oneida, N.Y., earned the coveted title of Company Honor Graduate during the Nov. 7 graduation at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Honor graduates are recruits who distinguish themselves above the rest of their peers in the whole company. Honor graduates usually maintain high statistics in the areas of swim qualification, rifle range, and physical fitness test. Additionally, they possess and exude many of the Marine Corps' intangible qualities; such as leadership, self-discipline, military bearing, and *esprit de corps*.

Moyer's recruiter, Staff Sgt. David F. Kurz, was not surprised when he heard of her success at recruit training. He had noticed these traits in her from the second they met in August 2002.

"When she first sat down with me, I could tell that she had the makings of an excellent Marine," said Kurz. "She was very well spoken, and in great physical shape. During her time in the Delayed Entry Program, I continually saw her progress. At each pool meeting she showed up with a new piece of knowledge. She really became the leader of our team," he said.

Moyer attributes her success at boot camp to the preparation that the pool meetings provided her with.

"Study your Marine Corps knowledge," said Moyer. "If you are on your way to the island, knowing that

information will put you ahead of your peers. Your drill instructors notice that stuff a lot. They see a whole lot more than recruits actually think."

Running her Initial Strength Test weekly and keeping up with high school sports helped Moyer physically prepare for training. However, nothing she could do would prepare her for the homesickness that she regularly felt.

"I wasn't expecting to miss my family so much," she said. "Mail is gold down there. My mother was wonderful and wrote me every day. I felt bad that I never had time to write back. In fact I only wrote about 12 letters home."

Moyer was assigned as the platoon guide early in the training evolution. Instead of spending her one free hour at night writing home, she chose to spend that period helping her fellow recruits in areas of weakness.

"I felt bad that some people were struggling in areas I excelled in. If I could spend that time helping out another recruit and building a stronger platoon, then I knew my family would understand," she said.

The Moyer family drove down for the November graduation. Upon recollecting her memories of seeing them again, Moyer looks slightly embarrassed and slyly smiles.

"I was so worried about losing my bearing. They were seated right in front of me, and it was all I could do not to look at them. Both my mother and father were crying, and my little sister looked so different. She'd lost twenty pounds since I'd been gone," she said.

"Above all else, recruit training made me appreciate my family. Everyone changed a little while I was gone, and I missed that."

Moyer has since continued on with her training at Camp Geiger, N.C. She has elected a military occupational specialty in the public affairs field, and hopes to be stationed overseas. 🦶

## Graduated With Honors

by Sgt. Pamela Shelley



Official USMC photo

LCpl. Susan E. Moyer

# 84 SPOT



Sgt. Pamela Shelley

## Staff Sgt. Daniel Beecher

Military Entrance Processing Station, Albany, N.Y.

As the new liaison at MEPS Albany, Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Beecher is now the last step in making sure that only those physically and mentally qualified enter his beloved Corps. The liaison is considered the final screening process in ensuring the quality of poolees and applicants before they ship to Parris Island. Each day, Beecher scours through scores of paperwork in search of errors and missing documents that could hinder an applicant from shipping or processing. He is also responsible for making sure that poolees complete an Initial Strength Test before departing for their three month Parris Island adventure. Beecher has been on recruiting duty since January 2000, and has provided the Corps with more than 80 new Marines. Residing in Glens Falls, N.Y., this hometown Marine and his wife, Amanda, plan to extend his contract with RS Albany.

March is National Women's History Month



# *Women in the Marine Corps*



Ruth Streeter  
1st Director of  
Women Marines



Annie Grimes  
1st African-American  
Woman Officer in the  
Marine Corps



Margaret Brewer  
1st Woman General Officer  
in the Marine Corps



Carol Mutter  
1st Woman to Become  
a Lieutenant General



Sarah Deal  
1st Woman to be  
Selected for Naval  
Aviation Training